Farmer-Labor
Leaflet No. 1

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FOR A
FARMER-LABOR PARTY
FOR A
Workers' and Farmers' Government

To the Working Farmers of Canada

Canadian Agriculture.

Canadian agriculture has reached a crisis. It is admitted readily on all hands that farming no longer "pays."

The rapid growth and development of the farmers' organizations, resulting from the treatment at the hands of the old line political parties during the war; and the subsequent capturing of Provincial legislatures, brought new hope to the farmers of Canada. They had visions of "running" the country, so that the farming interests would have a "fair show" and not continue to be shorn and milked by the Big Interests.

Disappointment has come, however. Farming conditions have not improved but have steadily grown worse. Many of the farmers' representatives were only liberals in disguise. Many have openly gone over to the old line parties. The Progressives in the Federal house have shown no inclination to fight for the farmers, and are openly in alliance with the liberals, who are in turn backed by the big interests.

This condition of affairs is not only confined to Canada but manifests itself in the United States of America and in European countries. The third party movement in the U.S.A. is a revolt of the small farmers against the old political parties of the large capitalists. Many schemes have been suggested from co-operative buying and selling to wheat pools, all in an endeavor to wrest themselves free from the tightening hold of the Big Interests.

The Politicians.

The failure of the Politicians in the farmers' movement to take up the fight of the farmers on a definite class issue, their pussy-footing and toadying to the established political parties, has resulted in many farmers going to the other extreme

and renouncing political action. Instead of wresting the farmers' movements from out of the hands of the politicians and the well-to-do farmers, who are closer to the big interests than the poor working farmers, they hope to find relief in wheat pools and co-operative marketing. To do this alone is to leave the farmers at the mercy of the Banking, Financial and manufacturing interests who control the political parties and thereby control the governments.

Mortgage and Debt.

Ninety per cent of the farmers are in debt. The great majority of the farmers are caught in the mortgage net of finance capital.

The soldiers' settlement board reports that eighteen per cent of the soldier farmers have been forced to quit because they could not make two ends meet. Tens of thousands of farmers are having their farms sold over their heads for the same reason.

The farmers of the prairie provinces are in debt to the extent of at least one billion dollars. In Saskatchewan it is stated that the average debt of a half section of land is in excess of five thousand dollars.

The plight of the tillers of the soil is steadily growing worse. Last year witnessed a bumper crop—the largest in the history of the country. But this huge crop brought the farmers seventy million dollars less than the previous year.

Year after year the burden of debts and mortgages grows larger and heavier. Each year sees the farmers in worse plight, until today the great majority of the farmers are face to face with utter destitution.

Increasing Exploitation.

Huge numbers of farmers today, especially in Western Canada, do not own the land they till. They are simply the hired men of the implement, elevator, railroad, banking and mortgage corporations. Each year sees more and more land passing from the hands of the farmers and into the hands of corporations, to be rented or "sold" again to some unsophisticated enthusiast who still thinks that farming can be made to pay. Most of the farmers in this country are simply landless peasants masquerading in the role of propertied holders.

The workers in the city are in a precarious position. They are face to face with the spectre of hunger, unemployment and lowering wages. Tens of thousands of them are confronted with the most bitter and relentless destitution. Like their brothers—the workers on the land—they are poor and growing poorer in the face of abundance.

Old Line Parties.

The toilers of the cities and the fields are being exploited by the same class—the capitalist class, the class which controls the banks and mortgage companies and owns the means of production and distribution. The two great political parties of this country—the conservative and liberal parties—are as one when it comes to fighting the only useful class in this country—the farmers and the workers. Those parties are the instruments of class privilege, capital and finance.

The poor farmers and workers have been kept apart, by the subtle propaganda of our common enemies. The farmer has been taught to believe that the exorbitant prices that he has to pay for his farm material, implements, etc., are caused by the high wages of the city workers. The workers have believed that the high prices paid for farm produce, have gone into the pockets of the farmers.

Lowering Living Standard.

The steadily lowering wages of the city workers, aggravated by the unemployment and the continual stream of immigrants, means that the workers are buying less of the produce of the farm. This means that the home market for the product of the Canadian farmers is steadily contracting. Combined with the greatly limited European market — again owing to the lowered standard of living of the workers— this decrease in the purchasing power of the Canadian workers means that the price of farm produce, because of this decreased demand, has reached a level where it costs the farmer more to produce than what he receives for his produce. This means loans, debts, mortgages and bankruptcy.

Time For Action.

Surely it is time for the farmers and workers, the mighty forces of wealth production, to join together in the common struggle against the common foe. As long as they are kept apart, just so long will the power and arrogance of the big interests rule this country and dictate their terms.

The road to progress lies through joint struggle. The capture of political power by the exploited class, is the goal at which the toilers, both of the city and the country, must aim.

Farmer-Labor Political Party.

To accomplish this it is necessary to join all farmer and labor organizations together into one political party; a Farmer-Labor Party, to whom all farmer and labor organizations can affiliate. Here is an organization that will bring together all those who toil and produce, on land, in factory and mine, for a struggle for political power against that class that is living on the product of our brawn and our brain.

Divide and Rule has been the tactics of our masters down through the ages. A united front of all Farmer and Labor organizations must be our answer to this. Forsake the old political parties! They are the parties of your enemies.

Beware of the attempts to lead you back again into the camp of the exploiters by the so-called Progressives!

On with the work for a Farmer-Labor Party!

Trade Unions, Political Labor Parties, Farmers' Clubs and Organizations. Take up the Fight! Against the Political parties of our masters, with a Canadian Farmer-Labor Party!

On with the fight for a Farmers' and Workers' Government!

A PAPER

With An Objective!

—A Workers' and Farmers' Government—

For News of Farmers Movements; of Canadian Labor;

OR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

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